

Tips for Parents

- As soon as possible, begin saving for college! Even if it's only \$25/month, in 18 years your child could have \$12,000 to add to grants, scholarships, and other financial aid.
- 2 It's never too early to teach your children the value of a dollar! As early as elementary school, begin educating your kids about saving, budgeting, and wisely spending money!
- Encourage your child to challenge themselves! Students that take the most challenging courses in school are best prepared for college success.
- Visit a campus . . . TODAY! Visiting a campus at any age is a great step in making college dreams a reality. As a high school student, it's an important step in the college selection process. Price, location, and programs offered are just a few things to consider when choosing a college.
- Apply early! Financial aid is limited.

 Complete all financial aid and scholarship applications as soon as possible! Admission to some colleges is competitive. Do not apply to only one college, keep your options open by applying to several.

FAQ HOPE Scholarship for College Students

Once I start as a college freshman can I 'sit out' a semester, to work and still receive my HOPE Scholarship?

A: No. Maintaining continuous enrollment is a requirement for HOPE eligibility. Once you start your freshman year, you must enroll in AT LEAST 6 hours in the Fall and Spring semesters to receive your scholarship award.

Q I need to drop some classes. Will this impact my HOPE Scholarship?

A: It depends. Once the semester begins, if dropping courses causes you to go from full time to part time you could lose your HOPE Scholarship permanently. NEVER drop courses without talking to your financial aid office about how it may impact your HOPE eligibility.

Q: What are the requirements to keep my HOPE Scholarship?

A: At the end of 24 and 48 attempted hours a student must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.75. At the 72-hour benchmark and beyond, a student can retain the award by having a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above OR achieving a cumulative GPA between 2.75-2.99 and earning a semester GPA of 3.0. It is important to note that students who retain the award with a cumulative GPA between 2.75-2.99 must be enrolled full-time and will have their eligibility checked at the end of each semester. Students who retain the award with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above are eligible until the next benchmark is reached.

Q: Can I regain the HOPE Scholarship later if I don't make the required GPA?

A: Yes, students may regain the award one time only if they raise their cumulative GPA to the appropriate level for that particular benchmark. For example, if your GPA is below 2.75 when you attempt 24 semester hours, you can regain the award at the 48-hour benchmark by raising your cumulative GPA to 2.75 or above. If you made a low grade in a course, you also have the opportunity to repeat one course, one time, to help you regain the award. Please contact TSAC or your school for further details.



FAQ HOPE Scholarship for High School Seniors

Q: Should I take easy classes in high school so my GPA will be high enough to qualify for the HOPE Scholarship?

A: No! Taking easy classes in high school might get you a higher GPA but you won't be prepared for college and you'll be less likely to keep your scholarship after your freshman year. Take all the Math, Science, and English classes you can get!

Q: While I'm in high school wouldn't I be better off working more to save money for college?

A: Not if your grades suffer from it! A HOPE Scholarship at a fouryear institution is worth at least \$16,000. That's like working to save \$100/week, every week, for more than three years!

O: Do I have to go to college right after I graduate to get the HOPE Scholarship?

A: No. Students that meet all other eligibility requirements can take up to 16 months off before enrolling at a HOPE-eligible institution.

Q: My college is using an ACT "Super Score" for admissions. Can I use it to qualify for HOPE too?

A: No. Your highest composite score on a single test is used to determine HOPE eligibility.

Q: Is the FAFSA the only way to apply for a HOPE Scholarship?
A: Yes.

Q: I'm getting the HOPE Scholarship! Can I use it at any college in Tennessee?

A: Congrats on becoming a HOPE Scholar! You may use the HOPE Scholarship at only the approved, HOPE-eligible institutions in Tennessee. To find a list of these colleges go the Lottery Scholarship page at www.TN.gov/collegepays.

Q: How is my weighted GPA for the HOPE scholarship determined?

A: It is weighted per the uniform system of weighting adopted by the Tennessee State Board of Education. For further details, ask your school counselor.



TO DO LIST:

- Talk to H.S. counselor
- Make out a budget
- Fill out applications
- Schedule to take the ACT or SAT
- Call the financial aid office
- Visit the university with Mom & Pad
- Study, Study, Study!!

JANUARY 29 & FEBRUARY 12, 201

Learn more about attending college and applying for financial aid. Visit www.tn.gov/collegegoalsunday or call (800) 342-1663 for details.

Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation

Parkway Towers, Suite 1510 404 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0820 (800) 342-1663 (615) 741-1346 Fax (615) 741-6101

www.TN.gov/collegepays www.CollegeforTN.org

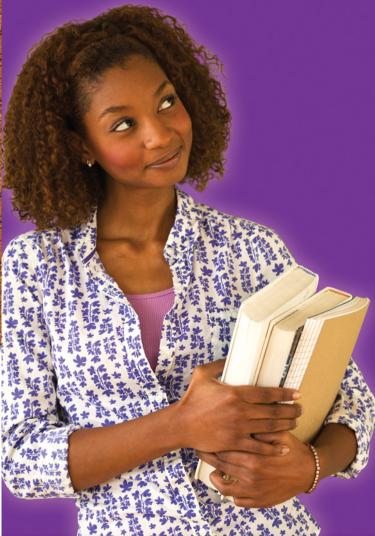




Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation Authorization #332230, 600,000, August 2011. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$0.06 per copy.

Financial Aid Information





TN.GOV/COLLEGEPAYS
COLLEGEFORTN.ORG

FAFSA CHECKLIST

- Get a PIN today! A parent and the student, BOTH, need to get a personal identification number at www.pin.ed.gov.
 - Gather all your information today! Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers, tax returns, other financial records including untaxed income, savings, investments etc. for parents and the student.
- Get your FAFSA filled out ASAP after January 1! Filling out the FAFSA is FREE at www.fafsa.gov! For assistance, call 1-800-4FED-AID or contact the college financial aid office.
- Follow up on your FAFSA! Once processed, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR). Review your SAR for corrections or updates.

Financial Aid Tips

- · PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO DEADLINES!
- Check with your high school counselor, employer, church, bank and search FREE websites for scholarships.
- Contact the department of your intended major and other campus departments regarding scholarships.
- REMEMBER, DO NOT PAY TO APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS OR ATTEND PRESENTATIONS GUARANTEEING FREE SCHOLARSHIPS!
- Inform financial aid administrators about special circumstances that may affect your financial aid.
- Read everything you receive from a prospective college because it may require more information from you or your parent(s) prior to awarding financial aid.
- Keep a copy of all financial aid documents, especially loan paperwork.

Direct Stafford Loan Program

Undergraduate / Graduate

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- · Students must be U.S. citizens or nationals, permanent residents or eligible non-citizens
- Enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an eligible program of study at an eligible postsecondary institution at least half-time
- · Financial need as determined by the FAFSA
- · Loan certification by the financial aid office
- · Contact the financial aid office for additional eligibility criteria

AWARD FACTS:

 The amount borrowed may not exceed the cost of attendance minus other estimated financial assistance and cannot exceed the annual and total loan limits

HOW TO APPLY:

- · Must complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.gov
- · Must complete a Master Promissory Note



Direct PLUS Loan Program

Parent or Graduate / Professional

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Parents and/or students must be U.S. citizens or nationals, permanent residents or eligible non-citizens
- Students must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an eligible program of study at an eligible postsecondary institution at least half-time
- · A credit check will be performed
- · Loan certification by the financial aid office
- · Contact the financial aid office for additional eligibility criteria

AWARD FACTS:

 The amount borrowed may not exceed the cost of attendance minus other estimated financial assistance

HOW TO APPLY:

- · Must complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.gov
- · Must complete a Master Promissory Note

BORROWING MONEYFOR COLLEGE

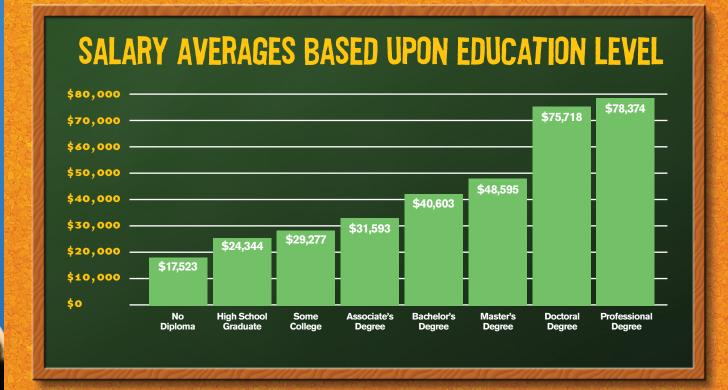
Someone with a bachelor's degree earns over \$500,000 more than a high school graduate over their career (see chart below). But most of the time, getting that college degree will cost you some money first. Most financial aid packages include a combination of grants, scholarships and student loans. Always check with your financial aid office to discover ways to minimize the loan amount you have to borrow.

Always keep in mind that when you take out a student loan you are borrowing against your future earning potential AND even if you don't finish college—you MUST repay your loan. A good guide to remember when taking on the huge responsibility of a student loan is to make sure your monthly payment is no more than 10 – 15% of your monthly gross income.

17.8F	STUDENT LOAN BORROWER				
CK S	Total Borrowed	\$10,000	\$23,000	\$46,000	\$138,500
No. of Part	Monthly Payment	\$115	\$265	\$529	\$1,594
	Total Owed/Paid	\$13,810	\$31,762	\$63,523	\$191,263
Townson Land	Interest Paid	\$3,810	\$8,762	\$17,523	\$52,763

Standard repayment plan for undergraduate or graduate borrower at 6.8% fixed interest rate, 120 monthly payments.

Today, the average college graduate has between \$20,000 and \$80,000 in student loan debt and another \$2,500 to \$5,000 in credit card debt. It costs money to borrow money - better known as interest.



available at www.TN.gov/collegepays